

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

3 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Berlin developments

a) In recent days the East Germans have held up several US military patrols in East Berlin for an hour or better;
b) the Soviet representative at the Berlin Air Safety Center has said that if US flights which "violate the sectoral border" continue, "they will be considered as violators of the state border with all the consequences which a violation entails";
c) the West German press generally interprets the delegation of Allied border controls in Berlin to the West Berlin police as playing into Soviet hands because it reinforces the claim that the intersector border is an East German state border. [redacted] 50X1

2. French-Algerian negotiations

Talks may be resumed--possibly as early as next week--despite Wednesday's violent Moslem demonstrations. However, we look for a move from European extremists in both France and Algeria aimed at blocking a negotiated settlement. French [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] making little progress in their efforts to break the Secret Army Organization in Algeria. [redacted] 50X1

3. Summary of Soviet
Pacific missile tests

The primary purpose of the series was to test a second-generation ICBM to extended range, with space-related objectives subsidiary. During the firing period, beginning 13 September and ending 28 October, eight test vehicles were put into the general impact area, while at least three are believed to have failed in flight. The two new-type vehicles involved have been tentatively identified as an ICBM, which may be smaller than the first-generation missile, and a vehicle being developed as a space booster. Both types have been undergoing tests over shorter ranges since the first of this year. [REDACTED]

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4. Merchant mission
nearing crucial
stage

Ambassador Merchant, now in Karachi, is about to begin a last round of discussions with the Pakistanis and Afghans. He has so far found little common ground between the two and is not confident of success. From Kabul, however, Ambassador Byroade reports general optimism, which he suspects may be based on an exaggerated expectation of Pakistani concessions and which he fears could produce a strong anti-US reaction if the mission fails. [REDACTED]

50X1

5. Argentine tinderbox

Peronists, Communists, the military, and Nationalists are all laying plans to take advantage of the crisis caused by the current railway strike and the general strike called for November 7. Chances of overt action resulting in a dramatic change are lessened by the fact that all factions are aware of each other's maneuvering. It seems clear, however, that even if Frondizi weathers this crisis, his position will be weakened.

NOTES

- A. Leopoldville and Elizabethville are carrying on a war of claims and counterclaims but there is virtually no hard information on the military situation along the Katanga border. Desultory fighting apparently continues.
- B. Peiping has so far shown considerable self-restraint in reacting to Moscow's condemnation of Albania and Stalin. We think it likely that the Chinese are marking time until they have worked out their rebuttal, probably in time for anniversary celebrations to be held in both Moscow and Tirana next week.
- C. There were two nuclear tests at Novaya Zemlya yesterday.

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